REMARKS

Examiner stated that the indicated allowability of Claims 2-3, 11, 13, and 19-20 was withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to SanGiovanni. Rejections based on the new reference(s) follow.

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-18, and 20-26 remain pending in this patent application. Claims 1, 3-10, 12-18, and 20-26 stand rejected. Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the arguments set forth below.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 4-6, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kikinis (US 5,841,424) in view of SanGiovanni (US 2002/0102946 A1) and Batio (US 5, 949,643). Applicant has reviewed the cited art and for the following rationale assert that Claims 1, 4-6, and 9, distinguish over these references under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a).

Claim 1 recites the following limitations:

A keyboard sled adapted to communicatively interact with a portable computer system, said keyboard sled comprising:
a receiving portion adapted to receive said portable computer system, said receiving portion configured to receive said portable computer system in a landscape (horizontal) orientation;
an interface connector disposed within said receiving portion and adapted to provide a communicative link with said portable computer system when said portable computer system has been inserted in said receiving portion;
a mounting mechanism disposed within said receiving portion, said mounting mechanism for providing positive retention on said portable computer system;
a keyboard portion coupled with said interface connector and for providing input keys; and
a data storage access slot adapted to provide access to a data storage device receptacle of said portable computer system.

Claim 4 recites the following additional limitation:

The keyboard sled as recited in Claim 1 wherein said data storage access slot is configured as a pass through channel, such that when said portable computer system is coupled with said keyboard sled, said data storage device receptacle of said portable computer system in accessible without requiring the disengaging of said portable computer system from said keyboard sled.

Claim 5 recites the following additional limitation:

The keyboard sled as recited in Claim 1 wherein said keyboard portion comprises a complement of alphanumeric keys.

Claim 6 recites the following additional limitation:

The keyboard sled as recited in Claim 1 wherein said keyboard portion is a split keyboard having a left portion and a separately located right portion, said two portions comprising a complement of alphanumeric keys.

Claim 9 recites the following additional limitation:

The keyboard sled as recited in Claim 1 wherein said portable computer system is a palmtop computer.

The claimed embodiments, as recited in Claims 1,4-6, and 9, recite a keyboard sled for communicatively interacting with a portable computer. Claim 1 recites a receiving portion adapted to receive a portable computer system. The portable computer system can be received in a landscape (horizontal) position. An interface connector is disposed within the receiving portion and is adapted to provide a communicative link with the portable computer system when the portable computer system is inserted therein. A mounting mechanism is disposed within the receiving portion to provide retention of a portable computer system inserted therein. A keyboard portion is coupled with the interface connector to provide input keys. A data storage access slot providing access to data storage device present on the portable computer system is disposed within the sled.

Therefore, as claimed, a keyboard sled is provided for receiving a portable computer system in a landscape orientation. An interface connector disposed within the receiving portion of the sled is configured to couple with an interface connector disposed on a portable computer system to enable communicative interaction between the portable computer system and the keyboard sled. Within the receiving portion, there is a mounting mechanism to positively retain a portable computer system therein when the portable computer system is inserted in the keyboard sled. A slot providing access to a data storage drive disposed on the portable computer system is also included.

The cited art, as understood by Applicant, does not teach a keyboard sled that can receive a portable computer system in a landscape orientation. Nor does the cited art, as understood by Applicant, teach an interface connector in the receiving portion configured to couple with an interface connector on the portable computer system. Further, as understood by Applicant, the cited art fails to teach a mounting mechanism to positively retain the portable computer system when inserted in the keyboard sled. Additionally, as understood by Applicant, the cited art does not teach a slot providing access to a data storage drive disposed on the portable computer system.

Rejection states that Kikinis teaches keyboard sled (11) comprising a receiving portion (19a, fig. 1) adapted to receive a portable computer system (37, fig. 4). Rejection further states that Kikinis also teaches an interface connector (29, fig. 2) disposed within said receiving portion.

Applicant respectfully traverses. Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, suggests a keyboard (11) having a bay (19a), from a plurality of bays (19a-19d), each of which are designed to accept a special adapter specific to a particular peripheral device (Column 3,

lines 9-10). Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, describes that within each bay (19) is a pin matrix (29) connected to a PCB within the keyboard 11 (Column 3, lines 35-36). However, as understood by Applicant, Kikinis teaches that pin matrix 29 is not coupleable to a peripheral device, e.g., a portable computer system. Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, suggests that unless an adapter (35, fig. 3) is used (Column 3, lines 57-60; Column 4, lines 5-14), communicative coupling between the keyboard (11) and the portable computer system is not possible. As such, inserting a portable computer system 100 into a bay (19) without utilization of an adapter (35) could damage either the pin matrix (29) or a connector 180 disposed on a portable computer system 100, or both. Further, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, suggests an adapter (35) for enabling communication between the keyboard (11) and the portable computer system (37).

In contrast, the claimed embodiments, as claimed in Claim 1, require a keyboard sled having a receiving portion adapted to have a portable computer system inserted therein. Also required in Applicant's keyboard sled, in accordance with the claimed embodiments, is an interface connector disposed within the receiving portion that is coupleable to an interface connector of a portable computer system.

Thus, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, does not suggest, teach, or describe a keyboard sled having a receiving portion adapted to receive a portable computer system, as claimed in Claim 1. Further, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, does not describe, suggest, or teach an interface connector disposed within the receiving portion that is adapted to be coupled to a portable computer system, as claimed in Claim 1.

Rejection additionally states that Kikinis teaches a mounting mechanism (35, Fig. 4) disposed within said receiving portion.

The claimed embodiments, as recited in Claims 1,4-6, and 9, recite a keyboard sled having a mounting mechanism is disposed within the receiving portion to provide retention of a portable computer system inserted therein.

Applicant respectfully traverses. Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, suggests an adapter (35, fig. 3) that is inserted (Column 3, lines 57-60; Column 4, lines 5-14) in a bay (19) to enable communicative coupling between the keyboard (11) and a computer system. However, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, does not describe or suggest a retaining mechanism within adapter (35) to positively retain a portable computer system therein. Nor does Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, suggest a retention mechanism within a bay (19) to retain an adapter (35) therein. Thus, if the keyboard (11) of Kikinis is upended or overturned, a portable computer system (37) inserted in an adapter (35) may fall out of the adapter, or the adapter (35) inserted in a bay (19) in which a portable computer system (37) is inserted may fall out. In either scenario, damage may be suffered by either the adapter (35) or the portable computer system (37) or both, if either or both fall out.

In contrast, the claimed embodiments, as claimed in Claim 1, recite a mounting mechanism for positive retention of the portable computer system when in the keyboard sled. The mounting mechanism can prevent accidental disconnection of the portable computer system from the keyboard sled, as well as preventing the portable computer system from falling out of the receiving portion when the keyboard is held in non-horizontal position.

Thus, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, does not provide a mounting mechanism for retaining the portable computer system within the receiving portion, as claimed in Claim 1. Additionally, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, does not provide a mounting

mechanism to retain a portable computer system when inserted in the keyboard sled, as claimed in Claim 1.

Continuing, the claimed embodiment, as recited in Claim 1,4-6, and 9, recites a keyboard sled having a data storage access slot providing access to data storage device present on the portable computer system is disposed within the sled.

Applicant's data storage access slot is an opening in the keyboard sled having no mechanical or electrical function. By virtue of Applicant's invention's ability to receive a portable computer system in a landscape orientation, the access to some data storage device drives disposed on a portable computer system may be blocked. Thus a data storage access slot (an opening) is included in the keyboard sled of the instant specification to enable access to a data storage device drive disposed on the portable computer system. Therefore, a data storage device, e.g., a Secure Digital, Multimedia Card, or other data storage device, can be inserted and removed from a data storage device drive disposed on the portable computer system without having to remove the portable computer system from the keyboard sled.

Rejection additionally states that Kikinis teaches a keyboard sled having a pass channel is provided between slots (53, fig. 5; also see col. 5, lines 35-43).

Applicant respectfully traverses. Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, suggests a multiplex switch (53) for communicating with pin matrices (29) in a bay (19), not a pass channel provided between slots, as stated by Examiner. As understood by Applicant, multiplex switch (53) is for selecting the bay (19) for any data transfer (Column 5; lines 34-37).

In contrast, the claimed embodiments, as claimed in Claim 1, recite a data storage access slot providing access to data storage device present on the portable computer system when the portable computer system is horizontally inserted in Applicant's keyboard sled.

Thus, as understood by Applicant, Kikinis does not suggest, teach, or describe a data access slot as claimed in Claim 1. Further, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, does not describe, teach, or suggest a need for a data access slot, and as such provides no motivation to modify the keyboard sled (11) of Kikinis to realize the claimed invention.

Continuing, Rejection states that SanGiovanni teaches a keyboard sled (102, fig. 3) having a receiving portion (106, fig. 3) for receiving a computer system (104, fig. 3) in a landscape orientation (shown in fig. 4A), and Batio teaches a keyboard sled (202, fig. 19) comprising a data storage access slot (208, fig. 19)

Applicant respectfully traverses. SanGiovanni, as understood by Applicant, suggests a wireless communication device (102) having a receiving portion (106) in which SanGiovanni, as understood by Applicant, describes wireless communication device 102 as a cellular phone having a numeric keypad (110) (0022). Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, describes a keyboard (11) coupled to a PC via a hard wired USB cable (25). Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, does not suggest a keyboard (11) that is not hard wired to a PC. Thus, as understood by Applicant, Kikinis does not describe a need for wireless communication to be implemented with the keyboard (11). Further, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, describes a keyboard (11) that is coupled to a PC, not a portable computer system as claimed in Claim 1. Therefore, as understood by Applicant, Kikinis does not suggest portability of a keyboard (11). Thus, there is no motivation to

modify the teachings of Kikinis with the wireless communication device (102) as taught by SanGiovanni to realize the claimed invention.

Accordingly, there is no motivation to modify the teachings of Kikinis with the wireless communication device (102) as described by SanGiovanni in such as way to realize the claimed embodiments. Further, by virtue of Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, providing a numerical keypad (17), there is also no motivation to modify the teachings of Kikinis with a numerical keypad (110) provided by SanGiovanni to realize the claimed combination.

Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, suggests tasks that may be performed while portable computer system (37) is inserted into an adapter (35) which is inserted into a bay (19a). The tasks, as understood by Applicant, include data transfer, recharging, and synchronization with a PC to which keyboard sled (11) is coupled via a USB cable (25) (Column 4, lines 53-61).

As such, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, does not suggest or describe tasks associated with a portable computer system that would mandate a portable computer system to be oriented in a landscape or horizontal orientation. Thus, there is no motivation to modify the teachings of Kikinis with the receiving portion (106) having horizontal functionality provided by SanGiovanni to realize the claimed combination.

Continuing, modifying the teachings of Kikinis with SanGiovanni does not remedy the shortcomings of Kikinis. If the receiving portion (106) of SanGiovanni is combined with the keyboard sled (11) of Kikinis, Applicant is unclear as to the manner in which the receiving portion (106) is to be combined. If receiving portion (106) is disposed within a bay (19), the modularity of the bays would be detrimentally affected (Kikinis: Figure 4; Column 4, lines 29-41). Thus, implementing the receiving portion 106 as or within a bay 19 teaches

directly away from advantages provided by the modularity of bays as described by Kikinis. If receiving portion (106) is implemented as an adapter (35), the shortcomings of Kikinis, with reference to a receiving portion disposed within the keyboard sled (11) or an interface connector disposed therewithin are not remedied. Additionally, modifying Kikinis and SanGiovanni with the teaching of Batio does not remedy the shortcomings of Kikinis.

Batio, as understood by Applicant, suggests a portable removable printer/keyboard/scanner/fax and copier module unit (202, fig. 19), not a keyboard sled as stated by Examiner. Further, Batio, as understood by Applicant, suggests a universal expansion bay 208, not a data storage access slot for accessing a data storage device disposed on a portable computer system, as stated by Examiner. Applicant notes that a universal expansion bay is commonly used for a floppy drive, a CD and/or DVD drive or other data storage device. Thus, a universal expansion bay is utilized to insert therein and to remove therefrom a coupleable removable data storage device drive.

Applicant's data storage access slot is an opening in the keyboard sled having no mechanical or electrical function. By virtue of Applicant's invention's enablement to receive a portable computer system in a landscape orientation, the access to some data storage device drives disposed on a portable computer system may be blocked. Thus a data storage access slot (an opening) is included in the keyboard sled of the instant specification to enable access to a data storage device drive disposed on the portable computer system. Therefore, a data storage device, e.g., a Secure Digital, Multimedia Card, or other data storage device, can be inserted and removed from a data storage device drive disposed on the portable computer system without having to remove the portable computer system from the keyboard sled.

Thus, modifying Kikinis and SanGiovanni with the universal expansion bay of Batio does not provide a data storage access slot as claimed in Claim 1.

Further, in some instances a universal expansion bay, e.g., a CD and/or DVD drive, as suggested by Batio, is larger than the approximate size of a portable computer system as recited by Applicant. Thus, there is no motivation to modify the teachings of Kikinis and SanGiovanni with the universal expansion bay of Batio to realize the claimed combination. Further, modifying Kikinis and SanGiovanni with the teaching of Batio does not remedy the shortcomings of Kikinis.

By virtue of Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, teaching a keyboard sled (11) that is coupled to a PC via a USB cable (25), there is no motivation to combine the teachings of Kikinis with a combination keyboard/printer/scanner/fax/scanner/copier unit (202) as described by Batio. Additionally, because keyboard sled (11) as described by Kikinis, and as understood by Applicant, is coupled with a PC, which are generally equipped with a floppy drive, and a CD and/or DVD drive, there is no motivation to combine the teachings of Kikinis with the universal expansion bay (208) as suggested by Batio.

Claims 10, 12, and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikinis in view of SanGiovanni and Batio. Applicant has reviewed the cited references and for the following rationale assert that Claims 10, 12, and 14-15 distinguish over these references under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a).

Claim 10 recites the following limitations:

A gaming sled adapted to communicatively interact with a portable computer system, said gaming sled comprising:
a receiving portion adapted to receive said portable computer system, said receiving portion configured to receive said portable computer system in a landscape (horizontal) orientation;

an interface connector disposed within said receiving portion and adapted to provide a communicative link with said portable computer system when said portable computer system is inserted in said receiving portion;

a mounting mechanism disposed within said receiving portion, said mounting mechanism for securing said portable computer system when coupled with said gaming sled;

a gaming controls portion coupled to said interface connector and for providing game control input; and

a data storage access slot adapted to provide access to a data storage device receptacle of said portable computer system.

Claim 12 recites the following additional limitation.

The gaming sled as recited in Claim 10 wherein said interface connector enables communication between said gaming sled and said portable computer system, provided said portable computer system is coupled with said gaming sled.

Claim 14 recites the following additional limitation:

The gaming sled as recited in Claim 10 wherein said data storage access slot is configured as a pass through channel, such that when said portable computer system is coupled with said gaming sled, said data storage device receptacle of said portable computer system in accessible without requiring the disengaging of said portable computer system from said gaming sled.

Claim 15 recites the following additional limitation;

The gaming sled as recited in Claim 10 wherein said gaming portion includes joystick functionality and function control buttons.

The claimed embodiment, as recited in Claims 10, 12, and 14-15, recites a gaming sled having a receiving portion for receiving a portable computer system in a landscaped or horizontal orientation. Within the receiving portion there is an interface connector for coupling with an interface connector disposed on the portable computer system inserted therein. The interface connector in the receiving portion enables communicative interaction between the portable computer and the gaming sled. Within the receiving portion there is a mounting mechanism for positive retention of a portable computer system when inserted therein. Within the gaming sled there is a pass through slot (an opening) therewithin that enables access to a data storage device drive disposed on the portable computer system.

The cited art, as understood by Applicant, does not teach a gaming sled able to receive a portable computer system in a landscape orientation. Nor does the cited art, as understood by Applicant, teach an interface connector located in the receiving portion configured to couple with an interface connector on the portable computer system. Further, as understood by Applicant, the cited art fails to teach a mounting mechanism to positively retain the portable computer system when inserted in the gaming sled. Additionally, as understood by Applicant, the cited art does not teach a slot providing access to a data storage drive disposed on the portable computer system.

Rejection states that Kikinis teaches keyboard sled (11) comprising a receiving portion (19a, fig. 1) adapted to receive a portable computer system (37, fig. 4). Rejection further states that Kikinis also teaches an interface connector (29, fig. 2) disposed within said receiving portion. Rejection additionally states that Kikinis teaches keyboard sled having a mounting mechanism (35, fig. 4) disposed within the receiving portion and a pass channel is provided between slots (53, fig. 5; also see col. 5, lines 35-43).

Applicant respectfully traverses. Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, suggests a bay 19a, from a plurality of bays 19a-19d, each of which are designed to accept a special adapter specific to a particular peripheral device (Column 3, lines 9-10). Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, describes that within each bay (19) is a pin matrix (29) connected to a PCB within the keyboard sled (Column 3, lines 35-36). However, as understood by Applicant, Kikinis teaches that pin matrix 29 is not coupleable to a peripheral device, e.g., a portable computer system.

Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, further suggests that unless an adapter (35, fig. 3) is used (Column 3, lines 57-60; Column 4, lines 5-14), communicative coupling between the keyboard sled and the portable computer system is not possible. As such,

inserting a portable computer system 100 into a bay(19) without utilization of an adapter (35) could damage either the pin matrix (29) or a connector 180 disposed on a portable computer system 100, or both.

Further, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, suggests an adapter (35) for enabling communication between the keyboard sled (11) and the portable computer system (37). However, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, does not describe or suggest a retaining mechanism within adapter (35) to positively retain a portable computer system therein. Nor does Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, suggest a retention mechanism within a bay (19) to retain an adapter (35) therein. Thus, if the keyboard sled (11) of Kikinis is upended or overturned, a portable computer system (37) inserted in an adapter (35) may fall out of the adapter, or the adapter (35) inserted in a bay (19) in which a portable computer system (37) is inserted may fall out. In either scenario, damage may be suffered by either the adapter (35) or the portable computer system (37) or both, if either or both fall out.

In contrast, the claimed embodiments, as claimed in Claim 10, require a gaming sled having a receiving portion adapted to have a portable computer system inserted therein. Also required in Applicant's gaming sled, in accordance with the claimed embodiments, is an interface connector disposed within the receiving portion that is coupleable to an interface connector of a portable computer system. Further required in the gaming sled, as recited in the claimed embodiments, is a mounting mechanism for positive retention of the portable computer system when in the gaming sled. The mounting mechanism can prevent accidental disconnection of the portable computer system from the keyboard sled, as well as preventing the portable computer system from falling out of the receiving portion when the keyboard is held in non-horizontal position.

Kikinis, on the other hand, and as understood by Applicant, does not provide a gaming sled having a receiving portion for receiving a portable computer system. Nor does Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, provide an interface connector within a receiving portion to couple with an interface connector disposed on a portable computer system. Additionally, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, does not provide a mounting mechanism for retaining the portable computer system within the receiving portion.

Thus, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, does not suggest, teach, or describe a gaming sled having a receiving portion adapted to receive a portable computer system, as claimed in Claim 1. Further, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, does not describe, suggest, or teach an interface connector disposed within the receiving portion that is adapted to be coupled to a portable computer system, as claimed in Claim 1. Additionally, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, does not provide a mounting mechanism to retain a portable computer system when inserted in the gaming sled, as claimed in Claim 10.

Continuing, Rejection states that SanGiovanni teaches a keyboard sled (102, fig. 3) having a receiving portion (106, fig. 3) for receiving a computer system (104, fig. 3) in a landscape orientation (shown in fig. 4A), and Batio teaches a keyboard sled (202, fig. 19) comprising a data storage access slot (208, fig. 19)

Applicant respectfully traverses. SanGiovanni, as understood by Applicant, suggests a wireless communication device (102) having a receiving portion (106) in which SanGiovanni, as understood by Applicant, describes wireless communication device 102 as a cellular phone having a numeric keypad (110) (0022). Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, does not describe a need for wireless communication to be implemented with the keyboard sled (11). Further, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, describes a

keyboard sled (11) that is coupled to a PC, not a portable computer system as claimed in Claim 10. Therefore, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, does not suggest portability of a keyboard sled (11). Thus, there is no motivation to modify the teachings of Kikinis with the wireless communication device (102) as taught by SanGiovanni to realize the claimed embodiments.

Accordingly, there is no motivation to modify the teachings of Kikinis with the wireless communication device (102) as described by SanGiovanni to realize the claimed combination. Further, by virtue of Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, providing a standard array of cursor keys (15), there is also no motivation to modify the teachings of Kikinis with a numerical keypad (110) provided by SanGiovanni to realize the claimed combination.

Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, suggests tasks that may be performed while portable computer system (37) is inserted into an adapter (35) which is inserted into a bay (19a). The tasks, as understood by Applicant, include data transfer, recharging, and synchronization with a PC to which keyboard sled (11) is coupled via a USB cable (25) (Column 4, lines 53-61).

As such, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, does not suggest or describe tasks associated with a portable computer system that would mandate a portable computer system to be oriented in a landscape or horizontal orientation, e.g., game playing on a portable computer system. Thus, there is no motivation to modify the teachings of Kikinis with the receiving portion (106) having horizontal functionality provided by SanGiovanni to realize the claimed combination.

Continuing, modifying the teachings of Kikinis with SanGiovanni does not remedy the shortcomings of Kikinis. If the receiving portion (106) of SanGiovanni is combined with

the keyboard sled (11) of Kikinis, Applicant is unclear as to the manner in which the receiving portion (106) is to be combined. If receiving portion (106) is disposed within a bay (19), the modularity of the bays would be detrimentally affected (Kikinis: Figure 4; Column 4, lines 29-41). Thus, implementing the receiving portion 106 as or within a bay 19 teaches directly away from advantages provided by the modularity of bays as described by Kikinis. If receiving portion (106) is implemented as an adapter (35), the shortcomings of Kikinis, with reference to a receiving portion disposed within the keyboard sled (11) or an interface connector disposed therewithin are not remedied. Additionally, modifying the teachings of Kikinis and SanGiovanni with the teaching of Batio does not remedy the shortcomings of Kikinis.

Batio, as understood by Applicant, suggests a portable removable printer/keyboard/scanner/fax and copier module unit (202, fig. 19), not a keyboard sled as stated by Examiner. Further, Batio, as understood by Applicant, suggests a universal expansion bay (208), not a data storage access slot for accessing a data storage device disposed on a portable computer system, as stated by Examiner. Applicant notes that a universal expansion bay is commonly used for a floppy drive, a CD and/or DVD drive or other data storage device. Thus, a universal expansion bay is utilized to insert therein and to remove therefrom a coupleable removable data storage device drive.

Applicant's data storage access slot is an opening in the gaming sled having no mechanical or electrical function. By virtue of Applicant's invention's ability to receive a portable computer system in a landscape orientation, the access to a data storage device drives disposed on some portable computer systems may be blocked. Thus a data storage access slot (an opening) is included in the gaming sled of the instant specification to enable access to a data storage device drive disposed on the portable computer system. Therefore, a data storage device, e.g., a Secure Digital, Multimedia Card, or other data

storage device, can be inserted and removed from a data storage device drive disposed on the portable computer system without having to remove the portable computer system from the keyboard sled.

Thus, modifying Kikinis in combination with SanGiovanni with the universal expansion bay of Batio does not provide a data storage access slot as claimed in Claim 1.

Further, in some instances a universal expansion bay, e.g., a CD and/or DVD drive, as suggested by Batio, is larger than the approximate size of a portable computer system as recited by Applicant. Thus, there is no motivation to modify the teachings of Kikinis in combination with SanGiovanni with the universal expansion bay of Batio. Further, modifying the teaching of Kikinis in combination with SanGiovanni with Batio does not remedy the shortcomings of Kikinis.

By virtue of Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, teaching a keyboard sled (11) that is coupled to a PC via a USB cable (25), a copier/scanner/fax/printer can be easily coupled with the PC to which the Kikinis keyboard (11) is coupled. Further, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, does not describe or suggest a need for a second keyboard. Thus, there is no motivation to modify the teachings of Kikinis with a combination keyboard/printer/scanner/fax/scanner/copier unit (202) as described by Batio. Additionally, because keyboard sled (11), as understood by Applicant, is described by Kikinis as coupled with a PC, which are generally equipped with a floppy drive, and a CD and/or DVD drive, there is no motivation to modify the teachings of Kikinis with the universal expansion bay (208) as suggested by Batio.

Thus, the teachings of Kikinis, in view of SanGiovanni, when modified with the teaching of Batio do not remedy the shortcomings of the keyboard (11) suggested by Kikinis.

Claims 18, 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kikinis in view of SanGiovanni and Batio. Applicant has reviewed the cited art and for the following rationale assert that Claims 18 and 21-24 distinguish over these references under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a).

Claim 18 recites the following limitations:

A system comprising:
a) a portable computer system having a display orientation controller; and
b) a sled comprising:
a receiving portion adapted to receive said portable computer system, said receiving portion configured to receive said portable computer system in a landscape (horizontal) orientation;
an interface connector disposed within said receiving portion and adapted to provide a communicative link between said sled and said portable computer system, when said portable computer system is coupled with said sled;
a mounting mechanism disposed within said receiving portion, said mounting mechanism for securing said portable computer system;
a keyboard portion coupled to said interface connector and for providing input keys; and
a data storage access slot adapted to provide access to a data storage device receptacle of said portable computer system.

Claim 21 recites the following additional limitation:

The system as recited in Claim 18 wherein said data storage access slot is configured as a pass through channel, such that when said portable computer system is coupled with said sled, said data storage device receptacle of said portable computer system is accessible without requiring the disengaging of said portable computer system from said sled.

Claim 22 recites the following additional limitation:

The system as recited in Claim 18 wherein said keyboard portion comprises a complement of alphanumeric keys.

Claim 23 recites the following additional limitation:

The system as recited in Claim 18 wherein said keyboard portion is a split keyboard, said split keyboard comprising a left side portion and a separately located right side portion, said two portions comprising a complement of input keys.

Claim 24 recites the following additional limitation:

The system as recited in Claim 18 wherein said sled further comprises a gaming control portion coupled to said interface connector and adapted to provide gaming input and control.

The claimed embodiment, as recited in Claim 18 and Claims 21-24, recites a system including a portable computer system and a sled. The sled has a receiving portion that can receive the portable computer system in a landscape or horizontal orientation. Within the receiving portion, there is an interface connector adapted to couple with an interface connector disposed on the portable computer system. Also included in the sled is a mounting mechanism for positive retention of the portable computer system within the receiving portion when the portable computer system is inserted therein. Because the sled can receive the portable computer system in a landscape orientation, some portable computer systems that have data storage device drives disposed thereon may have those drives blocked. Thus, the sled further provides a data storage access slot through which access to a data storage device drive is enabled without necessitating the removal of the portable computer system from the receiving portion in which it is inserted.

Applicant asserts that the rationale, arguments, and remarks presented above for the rejections of Claims 1, 4-6, and 9, and Claims 10. 12, 14-15 are applicable to this rejection. Applicant incorporates those arguments, remarks, and rationale herein.

Thus, the teachings of Kikinis, in view of SanGiovanni, when modified with the teaching of Batio, does not remedy the shortcomings of Kikinis.

Claims 3, 13 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kikinis in view of SanGiovanni and Batio, further in view of Helot et al. (US 6,185,095 B1). Applicant has reviewed the cited art and for the following rationale assert that Claims 3 and 13 and 20 distinguish over these references under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a).

The claimed embodiments, as recited in Claims 3, 13, and 20, recite a mounting mechanism that is insertable in a mounting hook receiving slot on a portable computer system.

Rejection states that it would be obvious to combine the mounting mechanism taught by Helot with the device of Kikinis modified by SanGiovanni and Batio.

Applicant respectfully traverses. Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, teaches a keyboard (11) having a plurality of modular bays (19a-19d) into which an adapter (35) is inserted. Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, also teaches that a different adapter (35) is needed for each type and model of peripheral device that may be inserted into a bay (19). A portable computer system (37) is inserted into the adapter (35) thus establishing communication between keyboard (11) and portable computer system when the adapter (35) is inserted in a bay (19a). Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, further teaches the keyboard (11) is hard wired to a PC via a USB cable (25). Thus, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, does not suggest portability of the keyboard (11). Thus, there is no motivation to modify the teachings of Kikinis with the teachings of SanGiovanni and Batio with the mounting mechanism of Helot to realize the claimed combination.

Further, Applicant is unclear as to the manner in which the mounting mechanism of Helot would be implemented in the keyboard (11) of Kikinis. If the mounting mechanism of Helot is implemented in a bay (19), the bay in which the mounting mechanism is disposed would no longer provide interchangeable modularity, as suggested by Kikinis (Column 4, lines 30-48). Thus, implementing the mounting mechanism of Helot in a receiving bay (19) of keyboard (11) teaches directly away from the invention of Kikinis. Implementing the mounting mechanism of Helot in this manner reduces the functionality of the keyboard (11).

If the mounting mechanism of Helot is implemented in an adapter (35) for use in keyboard (11) the mounting mechanism would not be disposed within the bay of keyboard (11), as claimed in Claim 1. Thus, the mounting mechanism of Helot combined with Kikinis modified by SanGiovanni and Batio does not remedy the shortcomings of Kikinis.

Claims 7-8, 16-17, and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kikinis in view of SanGiovanni and Batio, further in view of Madsen et al. (US 6,181,284 B1). Applicant has reviewed the cited art and for the following rationale assert that Claims 7-8, 16-17, and 25-26, distinguish over these references under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a).

The claimed embodiments, as recited in Claims 7- 8, 15-16, and 25-26, recite a sled (keyboard, gaming, and/or a system of a sled and a portable computer system, respectively) having a wireless modem (7,15, and 25) wherein the wireless modem can be Bluetooth enabled (7, 16, and 26, respectively).

Therefore, as claimed, a keyboard sled, a gaming sled, and/or a system comprising a sled and a portable computer system are provided with wireless modem functionality. In an embodiment, the wireless modem can be Bluetooth enabled.

Applicant asserts that the above presented rationales are applicable to this rejection, and which are incorporated herein by reference.

Further, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, suggests a keyboard sled (11) that is hard wired to a PC via a USB cable (25) (Column 3, lines 3-4). Because of keyboard (11) being coupled with a PC, Kikinis, as understood by Applicant, does not suggest portability of a keyboard (11). If wireless functionality is desired by Kikinis, many wireless modems are commercially available that are easily added to an existing PC to which the Kikinis keyboard (11) is hard wired.

Thus, there is no motivation to modify the teachings of Kikinis, in view of SanGiovanni and Batio, with the wireless functionality as suggested by Madsen to realize the claimed combination.

Additionally, the teachings of Madsen, when combined with Kikinis, in view of SanGiovanni and Batio do not remedy the shortcomings of Kikinis.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above arguments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of rejected Claims 1, 3-10, 12-18, and 20-26.

Based on the arguments and remarks presented above, Applicant respectfully asserts that Claims 1, 10, and 18 are allowable, and that all remaining dependent claims (i.e., Claims 3-9, 12-17 and 20-26) depend from allowable base claims. As such, Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of all remaining claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO LLP

Dated: 6/30, 2003

Anthony C. Murabito
Registration No.: 35,295

WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO LLP
Two North Market Street, Third Floor
San Jose, CA 95113

Voice: (408) 938-9060
Facsimile: (408) 938-9069